AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A printer adapted to be connected to a host computer and to receive data including control commands from the host computer, comprising:

a receive buffer for temporarily storing received data;

a data interpreter for interpreting the data in said receive buffer;

control means responsive to said data interpreter for controlling the printer;

state detection means for detecting whether the printer is in a first state in which data is received and the received data is not printed, or in a second state in which data is received and the received data is printed; and

clearing means for clearing the receive buffer,

characterized in that said clearing means is responsive to said state detection means for clearing said receive buffer in response to said printer entering said first state.

2.   (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 1, further comprising:

setting means for setting a data handling mode that determines how data are handled when said printer is in said first state; and

reading means for reading said data handling mode in response to said printer entering said first state, as determined by said state detection means;

wherein said clearing means is adapted to clear said receive buffer only when said data handling mode is set to allow clearing of said receive buffer.

3.   (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 2, wherein said setting means is adapted to set said data handling mode in response to a specific control command from said host computer.

4.   (Currently Amended) The printer of claim 1, further comprising a data discarding means for discarding print data and not discarding command data received from said host computer while said printer is in said first state.

5.   (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 4, wherein said data discarding means is adapted to discard data only when said data handling mode is set to allow discarding the data received from said host computer.

6.   (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 1, further comprising a print buffer for storing expanded print data, wherein said clearing means is adapted to clear both said receive buffer and said print buffer.

7.   (Currently Amended) The printer of claim 1 wherein said first state is an off-line state in which said data interpreter does not interpret received print data and does interpret received command data, and said second state is an on-line state in which said data interpreter interprets all received data.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a printer, comprising the steps of:

        (a) detecting whether said printer is in a first state in which data is received and the received data is not printed or in a second state in which data is received and the received data is printed; and

        (b) clearing a receive buffer for temporarily storing received data in response to said printer entering said first state.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein step (b) is accomplished immediately after said first state is detected in step (a).

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

        (c) setting a data handling mode so as to either allow or not allow clearing of said receive buffer; and

        (d) reading said data handling mode in response to detection of said first state in step (a);

wherein step (b) comprises clearing said receive buffer only when said data handling mode read in step (d) allows clearing of said receive buffer.

11. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 10, wherein step (c) is accomplished according to a specific control command from a host computer.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claims 8, further comprising a step of:

(e) discarding <u>print</u> data <u>and not discarding command data</u> received from a host computer after said receive buffer was cleared in step (b) and until step (a) detects said second state.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein step (e) comprises discarding data only when said data handling mode read in step (d) further allows discarding the data received from a host computer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising a step of:

(f) saving in said receive buffer data received from a host computer after said receive buffer was cleared in step (b) and until step (a) detects the second state.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising a step of:

(g) clearing said receive buffer when said second state is detected in step (a) after said first state had been detected previously.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein step (b) comprises clearing said receive buffer and a print buffer.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein step (g) comprises clearing said receive buffer and a print buffer.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said first state is an off-line state and said second state is an on-line state.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling a host computer for sending data including control commands to a printer controlled in accordance with the method as defined in claim 8, comprising the step of:

sending print data to the printer in conjunction with a printing completed command requesting notification when printing of said print data is completed;

awaiting a print completed notification from the printer in response to said printing completed command; and

resending said print data to the printer after receiving an on-line notification from the printer if an off-line notification had been received from the printer while the printing completed notification was awaited.

21. (Currently Amended) A printer adapted to be connected to a host computer and to receive data including control commands from the host computer, comprising:

a receive buffer that temporarily stores received data;

a data interpreter that interprets the data in said receive buffer;

a controller responsive to said data interpreter that controls said printer;

a state detector that detects whether said printer is in a first state in which data is received and the received data is not printed, or a second state in which data is received and the received data is printed; and

a clearing unit that clears said receive buffer,

wherein said clearing unit is responsive to said state detector and clears said receive buffer in response to said printer entering said first state.

22. (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 21, further comprising:

a setting unit that sets a data handling mode that determines how data are handled when said printer is in said first state; and

a reading unit that reads said data handling mode in response to said printer entering said first state as determined by said state detector;

wherein said clearing unit is adapted to clear said receive buffer only when said data handling mode is set to allow clearing of said receive buffer.

23. (Currently Amended) The printer of claim 21, further comprising a data discarding unit that discards print data <u>and does not discard command data</u> received from said host computer while said printer is in said first state.

24. (Currently Amended) A printer adapted to be connected to a host computer and to receive data including control commands from the host computer, comprising:

        a receive buffer that temporarily stores received data;

        a data interpreter that interprets the data in said receive buffer;

        a controller that controls said printer in responsive to said data interpreter; and

        a state detector that detects whether said printer is in first state in which <u>data is received and the</u> received data is not printed, or in a second state in which <u>data is received and the</u> received data is printed;

        wherein if said state detector detects that said printer is in said first state, then ~~said~~ received <u>print</u> data from the host computer is discarded and not stored in the received buffer <u>and received command data from the host computer is not discarded</u>.

25. (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 24, further comprising;

        a clearing unit that clears said receive buffer,

        wherein if said state detector detects a state transition into said second state, then said clearing unit clears the receive buffer in response to this transition.

26. (Previously Presented) A control method for a printer adapted to be connected to a host computer and to receive data including print data and control commands from the host computer, comprising:

        determining if said printer is in a first state, in which print data received from said host computer is not printed, or in a second state, in which print data received from said host computer is printed;

        responding to said printer being in said first state, by causing said printer to discard received data from the host computer and to not store said received data in a receive buffer internal to said printer.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising;

responding to said printer transitioning into said second state, by clearing said receive buffer.